Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously Presented)   A computer-implemented method, comprising:

determining a weight for each tuple in a set of tuples in a database based on a number of times the tuple was accessed during one or more past queries executed against the database;

selecting a subset of tuples from the set of tuples based on the determined weights;

determining an answer to a given query using the subset of tuples.

50. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 49, wherein determining the answer to the given query comprises:

executing the given query against the subset of tuples to identify answer tuples; and

determining the answer to the given query using information from the answer tuples and the weights of the answer tuples.

51. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 49, wherein determining the answer to the given query comprises:

determining a probability with which each tuple in the subet of tuples was selected;

executing the given query against the subset of tuples to identify answer tuples; and

determining the answer to the given query using information from the answer tuples and the probabilities of the answer tuples.

52. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 49, wherein determining the answer to the given query comprises:

determining a probability with which each tuple in the subset of tuples was selected;

executing the given query against the subset of tuples to identify answer tuples; and

determining the answer to the given query using information from the answer tuples and inverses of the probabilities of the answer tuples.

53. (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable media storing computer-executable instructions, which, when executed by a computing device, implement a method comprising:

collecting information related to one or more past queries against a ~~the~~ database;

examining the collected information to determine a number of times each tuple in a set of tuples in the database was accessed during the one or more past queries;

determining a weight for each tuple in the set of tuples based on the number of times the tuple was accessed;

selecting a subset of tuples from the set of tuples based on the determined weights;

executing a query against the subset of tuples to determine an answer to the query made against the database.

54. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable media of claim 53, wherein executing the query against the subset of tuples to determine the answer to the query made against the database comprises:

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for each tuple in the subset of tuples, determining a probability with which the tuple was selected;

executing the query against the subset of tuples to identify answer tuples; and

determining the answer using information from the answer tuples in the subset of tuples and inverses of the probabilities of the answer tuples.